Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

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Summary
Federal Student Financial Aid (SFA) is assistance for students enrolled at least half time in participating schools. It helps to cover school expenses, including: tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Most aid is need-based, and the three types of aid are grants, loans, and work-study.

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Quick Guide: What to do before beginning a FAFSA
1. Determine dependency status by completing the 2010-2011 Dependency Status Worksheet. This survey includes questions about date of birth, degree type, and affiliation with the military. After answering the questions, the worksheet will indicate dependent or independent status.
2. Complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet. The FAFSA on the Web Worksheet allows you to read and complete the questions before entering your information online. The questions are listed in the same order that they appear on the Web site.
3. Search for School Codes. Through this function, school codes may be searched for or simply verified. The search is completed by filling out information regarding school name, state, city, etc.
4. Students and Parents apply for a PIN by following this link, and filling out the requested information including full name, social security number, and date of birth.
5. Check Application Deadline Dates to ensure application is submitted on time.

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Quick Guide: Filling out a FAFSA
1. Fill out FAFSA Online by signing in with PIN and answering the necessary questions. Utilize the information gathered in "What to do before beginning a FAFSA" to correctly fill out the FAFSA application. Necessary information includes: dependency status, school code, and PIN.

2. Open your saved [FAFSA or correction application](#) if corrections or updates need to be made to the application. Saved information is secure and accessible for 45 days unless the federal application/correction deadline date has passed since the application was saved. Saved applications are erased after 45 days or after the federal application/correction deadline date.
3. [Sign electronically with PIN](#). In order to provide an electronic signature, select the school year of the FAFSA you are signing, followed by whether you are signing as a student or a parent. The person providing the signature will be prompted for his/her identifying information and PIN. Parents will also need to supply information about the student they are signing for and students and parents must submit their electronic signatures separately. Note: If you do not receive a confirmation number after submitting your electronic signature, Federal Student Aid has not received it. Additionally, If you applied for a PIN and selected or viewed the PIN instantly online or had it sent to you in an e-mail, you must wait one-three days from the date you applied before you can use the PIN to sign a FAFSA or correction. This is because we must first verify your information with the Social Security Administration.

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Quick Guide: FAFSA Follow-up
1. Check status of submitted FAFSA by clicking [here](#). It is recommended to check the status of the FAFSA one week after submission if a PIN was used to sign the application and two-three weeks after submission if a signed signature page was mailed.
2. Make [corrections](#) to a processed FAFSA if necessary. The PIN used to sign the application is necessary to complete this step.
3. [Add or delete a school code if necessary](#). The PIN used to sign the application is necessary to complete this step.
4. [View and print student aid report](#). The student aid report cannot be accessed until PIN information has been verified by the Social Security Administration (one-three days after you submit your PIN application).

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Frequently Asked Questions
Q. Who is eligible for FAFSA?
A. To receive federal student aid, you must:
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid Social Security Number (unless you're from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau)
- Be registered with Selective Service if you are male and 18 to 25 years of age (go to [Selective Service System](#) for more information)
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) Certificate or pass an exam approved by the U.S. Department of Education

- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at a school that participates in the federal student aid programs
- Not have a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, loans, or work-study)
- Not owe a refund on a federal grant or be in default on a federal student loan
- Demonstrate financial need (except for unsubsidized Stafford Loans)

Q. Where can one obtain a FAFSA?
A. Obtain a FAFSA from the following locations:
- Local Army Education Center
- A college financial aid office
- A high school guidance office
- Public Library
- Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
- FAFSA Website

Q. How can an applicant obtain a PIN?
A. Students and Parents apply for a PIN by following this link, and filling out the requested information including full name, social security number, and date of birth.

Q. What information is necessary to fill out the FAFSA?
A. Necessary information for completing the FAFSA can be found here and includes:
- Social security number
- Driver's License
- Current W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- Current tax return (if not a dependent
- Parents' current tax return (if a dependent)
- Current untaxed income records
- Current bank statements
- Current mortgage and/or investment information
- Alien registration or permanent resident card (if not a US citizen)

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Links
- ARNG Education Home Page
  This comprehensive website serves as the premier source for education, incentives, and employment services information as it applies to Army National Guard Soldiers.

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
  This site has all of the information necessary to apply for Federal Student Aid.

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References
Documents and Forms
- [ARNG Education Benefits Brochure](#)
- [ARNG Education Benefits Handbook July 2010](#)

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Points of Contact
- Federal Student Aid Information Center
  Phone Number: 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or 1-319-337-5665

- ARNG Education Support Center: esc@pec.ngb.army.mil

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